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Members at CENTO Parley Differ In Defining Major Policy Problems

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The Council of Ministers of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) expressed widely differing views yesterday in defining the political future of the alliance.

At the same time, the four nation-members expressed satisfaction with its economic aspects. The nine-year-old agreement among Britain, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey also was credited with shielding the Middle East from Communist infiltration in the past.

The opening speeches at their conference here reflected individual preoccupation with the problems each mem-

ber-nation considers most important.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, an "observer" at the annual two-day meeting, devoted most of his welcoming speech to the progress made by CENTO countries in improving "physical communications facilities."

But Rusk also told the ministers that "so long as the Communist threat of aggression persists, there will be need for the CENTO shield . . . (and) that threat has not been removed."

The United States is not officially a member of CENTO although it takes part in the functions and pays its

share of the budget. CENTO was established in 1955 as part of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' "picket fence" around the Soviet Union.

Rusk said the modern telecommunications among CENTO countries, the modernization of ports and improvement of highways, and the construction of a CENTO railway project to link the Turkish and Iranian railroad systems show "effective cooperation in defense and economic development."

Foreign Minister Z. A. Bhutto of Pakistan played down the anti-Communist nature of CENTO in his opening speech, reflecting his country's view that India is a greater menace to Pakistan than is Russia or Communist China. He said CENTO should give more emphasis to the economic aspects of the treaty while guaranteeing the independence of its members from "all aggression."

Turkish Foreign Minister Cemal Erkin said the issue of Cyprus must be settled within the framework of international law.

Foreign Minister Abbas Aram of Iran referred obliquely to Soviet pressure in the past and said political stability aided by CENTO has helped Iran begin implementing "a program of revolutionary reforms" of a social and economic nature.

British Foreign Secretary R. A. Butler, attending his first CENTO meeting, gave an unusually strong tribute to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and spoke in broad terms of the hope that Russia may be willing to make further moves to reduce the danger of war.